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EPA ANNOUNCES OPTIONS FOR CLEANING UP NEW BEDFORD HARBOR PCB "HOT SPOTS"

BOSTON --- The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today options and projected costs for cleaning up "hot spots" of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the New Bedford Harbor.

The five options, the results of a nine-month fast-track feasibility study, are:

1. Channeling the Acushnet River north of the Coggeshall Street Bridge and capping contaminated sediments in remaining open water areas. Estimated cost \$25 million.
2. Dredging contaminated sediments and disposing of them in an unlined containment site in the northern part of the estuary along the eastern shore. Estimated cost \$28 million.
3. Same as option two, except that the containment site would be lined on the bottom. Estimated cost \$80 million. The higher cost for this option is partly due to the fact that the site would need to be dehydrated before installation of the liner.
4. Dredging contaminated sediments and disposing of them in a nearby upland containment site (yet to be selected). Estimated cost \$44 million.
5. No Action. This alternative was evaluated to provide a measure of comparison for the other alternatives.

EPA will hold an informational public meeting to explain the options on August 22, 1984, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Whaler Motor Inn in New Bedford, and a public hearing to accept comments on the options on September 20, 1984, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Fairhaven Junior High School, Fairhaven. Written public comments may be submitted to EPA from August 23 until September 28, 1984.

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EPA will carefully consider public comments in choosing how to deal with the PCB "hot spots."

Copies of the study will be available for public review starting on August 23 at the Fairhaven and New Bedford libraries and at the Fairhaven Board of Health.

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